

Office of Professional Accountability (OPA) Commendations & Complaints Report Sept 2006

Commendations:

Commendations Received in Sept: 40

Commendations Received to Date: 339

Allers, Charles Bailey, Ryan Blair, Thomas Carpenter, Kenton Cepeda, Jose Eads, Richard Emerick, David Farrell, Charles Ferragamo, A. Gonzalez, Oscar Groves, Richard Haistings, Kevin Harris, Douglas Harris, Jerry Henshaw, Thomas Johnson, James Leonard, David Monroe, Thoms Mulvanny, Mark Nelson, Eric Patton, Bernard Salisbury, Erik Simpson, Paul Sylvester, David Yamamoto, E. Van Rooy, Gordon	<p>A letter of commendation was received by Harbor Patrol Officers for their quick and decisive actions while responding to the fire at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric administration facility. Both the leadership and action taken by the Seattle Police Harbor Unit resulted in an organized and integrated line of attack that enabled the sustained and ultimately successful, firefighting effort for a period of over 26 hours.</p>
Allers-Petrus, S. Sampson, Charles	<p>A letter was received by a Community Service Officer and a Dispatcher for their assistance and diligence in a missing person investigation.</p>
Cavinta Jr., Pete Cross, Michael Dunn, Terry Griesheimer, M.	<p>A phone call was received by the Department commending four officers for the assistance they rendered at the scene of a traffic accident. They were not only efficient, but also professional in the investigation.</p>
Cook, Glen Haines, Jacob Kloss, Paul Parnell, James	<p>Four Officers were congratulated by the State at the Annual Governor's Safety and Health Conference for their efforts in saving a life. They were recognized for their quick thinking and fast actions during a lifesaving ordeal.</p>
Dermody, James Eagle, Louis	<p>A letter of appreciation was received by a Lieutenant and Sergeant for their positive spirit of cooperation and dedication provided in preparation for and during Seattle Hempfest. They assisted with pre-event planning, event day traffic and crowd control, and public safety service and law enforcement protection.</p>
Hyra, Matthew	<p>A letter was received commending the actions of Officer Hyra for the assistance he offered to a young adult. With his intervention and quick thinking and his actions resulted in the much-needed medical assistance, which in turn saved his life.</p>

Kiehn, Jonathan	Officer Kiehn received a note of appreciation for recovering a victims' stolen vehicle. Because of his awareness and observations in his area of patrol, he was able to recover the stolen vehicle without damage to the victim.
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*This report includes commendations received from citizens or community members. Numerous commendations generated within the department are not included.

Sept 2006 Closed Cases:

Cases involving alleged misconduct of officers and employees in the course of their official public duties are summarized below. Identifying information has been removed.

Cases are reported by allegation type. One case may be reported under more than one category.

VIOLATION OF LAW

Synopsis	Action Taken
The named employee was alleged to have operated a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol.	The evidence supports the allegation that the named employee violated the law by driving under the influence of alcohol. The named employee agreed to a deferred prosecution and court conditions. FINDING—SUSTAINED.
It was alleged that, while off-duty, the employee was involved in road rage incident, in which he pulled alongside a car and pointed his gun.	This incident was investigated by the law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction where the incident occurred. No charges were filed. A subsequent administrative investigation supported that the employee, while off-duty, engaged in a dangerous driving incident. FINDING—SUSTAINED.

Sept 2006 Cases Mediated:

No cases were mediated during September 2006

Definitions of Findings:

“Sustained” means the allegation of misconduct is supported by a preponderance of the evidence.

“Not sustained” means the allegation of misconduct was neither proved nor disproved by a preponderance of the evidence.

“Unfounded” means a preponderance of evidence indicates the alleged act did not occur as reported or classified, or is false.

“Exonerated” means a preponderance of evidence indicates the conduct alleged did occur, but that the conduct was justified, lawful and proper.

“Supervisory Intervention” means while there may have been a violation of policy, it was not a willful violation, and/or the violation did not amount to misconduct. The employee’s chain of command is to provide appropriate training, counseling and/or to review for deficient policies or inadequate training.

“Administratively Unfounded/Exonerated” is a discretionary finding which may be made prior to the completion that the complaint was determined to be significantly flawed procedurally or legally; or without merit, i.e., complaint is false or subject recants allegations, preliminary investigation reveals mistaken/wrongful employee identification, etc, or the employee’s actions were found to be justified, lawful and proper and according to training.

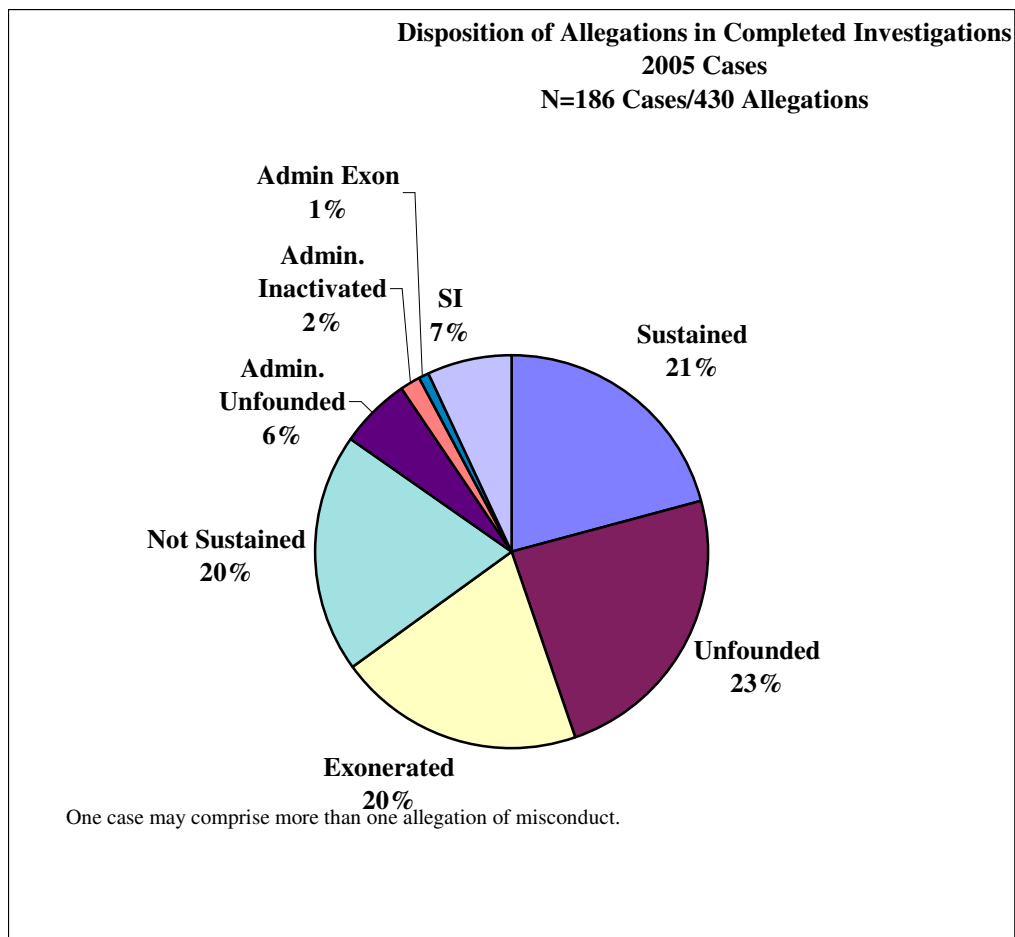
“Administratively Inactivated” means that the investigation cannot proceed forward, usually due to insufficient information or the pendency of other investigations. The investigation may be reactivated upon the discovery of new, substantive information or evidence. Inactivated cases will be included in statistics but may not be summarized in this report if publication may jeopardize a subsequent investigation.

Status of OPA Contacts to Date: 2005 Contacts

	December 2005	Jan-Dec 2005
Preliminary Investigation Reports	23	315
Cases Assigned for Supervisory Review	5	77
Cases Assigned for Investigation (IS;LI)	8	210
Cases Closed	40	186*
Commendations	84	498

*includes 2005 cases closed in 2006

note: the below chart has been changed effective the July 2006 report (June data) to reflect cases that have a "Supervisory Intervention" (SI) finding.



2006 Contacts

	Sept 2006	Jan-Dec 2006
Preliminary Investigation Reports	25	227
Cases Assigned for Supervisory Review	11	71
Cases Assigned for Investigation (IS;LI)	14	143
Commendations	40	339